

AFSC Advisory Board Meeting Notes – Feb 20, 2013

Attendance:

- Mary Lynch
- Lisa Saperstein
- Diana Olson (ph)
- Sarah Trainor
- Randi Jandt
- Scott Rupp
- Alison York
- Tom St.Clair
- Teresa Hollingsworth
- Sharon Alden
- Jen Northway
- Kato Howard
- Jennifer Barnes
- Eric Miller

Absent: Eric Geisler, Marsha Henderson

First In-person Board Mtg:

Kudos to Jen Northway for her extraordinary work getting AFSC started and institutionalized in the Alaska fire community. Please welcome our new *Coordinator*, Alison York. Randi Jandt is also onboard in a part time position as Science-Management Liaison.

Topics:

- Sarah: function of the Board is to keep AFSC relevant, salient, and credible.
- Reviewed 2012 accomplishments report and breakdown of AFSC clientele (see background documents)
- The **Art of Fire** was very exciting to JFSP and they want to know if we'll repeat, but how do managers feel about it, and outreach to general public as part of AFSC mission? Priority for AFSC outreach is science & fire mgmt communities, but educating public also supports agency mandate of implementing science in decisions. Board recommends keeping focus on developing products that can be used by general public, then get them in the hands of entities that deliver public science education (PIOs, Campbell Creek, AWFCG Fire Education and Prevention Committee, etc). One suggestion was "myth-busting" cartoons. AOF was labor-intensive for AFSC, could only be done because of partnership with LTER, and should only be done periodically as such opportunities arise. Advisory Board members completed a short survey to provide feedback on the level of support in the fire community for the Art of Fire project. There is opportunity through the end of March for people to share their thoughts and impressions.
- On the issue of **scientist-manager collaboration**: Having a specific agency "mentor" may be a good avenue for scientists or students to get buy-in from Managers, and better success in funding for JFSP projects. Important to have engagement from managers throughout the life of the project (get them involved in conception and design). Also important to have ideas sketched out so that teams can respond to short turnaround for JFSP RFP. TH noted preparation for a joint science/mgmt webinar is a valuable avenue for integration and learning in itself. AFSC should increase its visibility at science meetings, invite scientists to Fall Fire Review, and target more junior level fire personnel

(future managers). Scott noted it's important for AFSC and members to make the personal connections, because "science connections" are just like any other interpersonal connection. BE FRIENDLY. And harness the energy of grad students for our mission and our agencies. Consider adding a grad student representative to AFSC advisory board. Also consider a "subject matter experts" directory of both scientists and managers. Other suggestions included AFSC to present in an NRM Seminar and to host manager presentations for scientists.

- **Nenana Ridge project discussion:**
 - o "Main concern now is where to archive products." SR (LTER or FRAMES?)
 - o "Still have funding this year for monitoring, would like to re-visit treatments" KH
- Mail Chimp e-mail list needs to be checked & updated and a "**membership drive**" is probably in order, as there are some agencies (ADF&G, Native corps) and avenues of outreach (Campbell-Ck Sci Center) not well represented.
- **Webinar ideas:** Predictive Services showcase use of their tools and products, FMMAC do Calculating FSPro Inputs (St.Clair), and New Tools & Updates, and maybe WFFDSS review, Ben Jones detection of decades-old large fire events on North slope using remote sensing and field verification.
- **Disseminating information:** Get AFSC information to IMT meeting in April, Prevention mtg in Palmer, IBFRA mtg Oct, AAAS meeting, TWS, SAF. Board agreed to keep AFSC staff informed of their plans for attending meetings so that materials and information can be shared as appropriate. Get AFSC posters to AFS, LTER, BECRU, and NPS.
- **Fire Research plot map**—is it important? Need to update, expand knowledge of existence. LTER has similar research plots map: they use theirs a lot.
- **Spring Fuel Moisture Sampling workshop** will be back by popular demand and limited to 12-16 participants due to size of computer lab. Can AFSC video?
- 1983 Rosie Creek Fire might make a good field trip
- **Research needs list**—AWFCG is taking the lead on cross-referencing and updating the research needs list.
- **Evaluation** is very important to JFSP. Survey fatigue and problems with the current JFSP surveys were noted. AFSC still needs to do a self-evaluation: it will either be a survey, or some other method. The surveys/evaluations are a big part of how JFSP evaluates us to see if they want to keep funding Regional Consortia.
- **Website:** There was a suggestion to have a brainstorming/discussion in a future telecon meeting about maximizing website accessibility and ease of use.
- Is there still interest in an Alaska Version of Lake States Consortium **Fire and Fuels Information System tech report??** (Marsha was not able to attend, and this is possibly why we didn't discuss this item, but it still seems relevant, carried from last meeting agenda. Follow up with Marsha).

Priorities:

Ranking exercise was done after discussion for a quick guide to priorities. The ratings by category are below, 1 is highest priority.

CORE: Disseminate science findings & training opportunities

1	Evaluations and reporting requirements to maintain our grant
2	Provide an organized platform for delivering relevant boreal fire science information
3	Promote collaborative scientist-manager research development
4	List-serve, Website, Social media, Telephone
5	Fire Science News & Highlights Blog
6	AFSC Newsletter

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, TRAINING

1	Fire Science Workshop after Fall Fire Review, October
2	Webinars (3 scheduled so far)
3	Organized Field Trip/Workshop (or Virtual Field Trip???)
4	Presentation at Spring FMO meeting, April 5
X	Presentation at LTER Bonanza Ck meeting, Feb 16

OUTREACH & Science Delivery

1	Webinar summaries & Webinar/meeting Videos Posted to Website
2	Fact Sheets on previous/completed AK JFSP projects
3	Research Summaries
4	Nenana Ridge Project website (SR)
5	Synthesis Report-- Tundra Fire Research (ST)
6	Technical Report – Fire and Wildlife

TOOLS

1	Update Fire Reference database in FRAMES (using EndNote)
2	Maintain Events, Presentations Archive
3	Update Alaska Fire & Fuels Research Plots Map
4	Conversion Date Project (work with USFWS)
5	Facilitate delivery of IFTDSS training/evaluation by Wildfire RD&A
5	Paul Duffy's Seasonal Forecast Tool

OTHER IDEAS?

1	AFSC meet with science community (LTER, USGS, AKNHP, other?)
2	AFSC Internship Idea
3	Presentation at IARC on applied science for fire management
4	Field Participation by AFSC Staff
5	Video & Participation: 2 nd Fuels Moisture Sampling training wksp, May
6	Over wintering fires (EAM)
X	Fire Familiarization Training for AFSC Staff
X	Manager/Scientist Socials

X = completed or in-progress

New/Upcoming Projects:

1. SERDP is a large project on military training lands in interior, funded by DOD, and needs agency engagement and expertise.
2. New publication: Ray/Chapin: Tradition Ecological Knowledge and Fire Mgmt—possible web discussion idea?ⁱ
3. Duffy Conversion Date pilot project is funded this year by FWS; his seasonal forecast product is funded by AWFCG.
4. There is a discussion group led by Jen McMillan working on caribou habitat in W. Alaska that is of interest to fire managers.

Announcements:

- The Alaska Fire Science Consortium has 2 more years of funding from the JFSP 3-yr grant.
- The National All Consortia meeting is scheduled for April 30-May 2, but may be post-poned due to travel restrictions.

Background documents:

- Agenda: AFSC board_Agenda_2013_final.docx
- Presentation on 2012 accomplishments and listserve analysis: AFSC_AB meeting 2013_final.pdf

ⁱ Ray, L. A., C. A. Kolden, and F. Stuart Chapin III. 2012. A case for developing place-based fire management strategies from traditional ecological knowledge. *Ecology and Society* 17(3): 37.